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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Austria (Soviet Zone)/Rumania/USSR

SUBJECT Oil Production/Reserves/Exploitation and Exploration/
Equipment/Distribution/Refining Facilities

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1. [redacted] the current crude production of the Austrian Soviet Zone
From 10 thousand to 11 thousand metric tons per day, but at least more than
3,300,000 metric tons for the year 1953.

2. [redacted]
the
estimated recoverable reserves are about one million metric tons. [redacted]

3. [redacted]
little if any secondary recovery was in progress [redacted]

4. [redacted]
About 16
drilling rigs were running in the Austrian Soviet Zone oilfields. These rigs were
all rotary units. [redacted] no cable tool units in use and [redacted] no Soviet
turbodrill units in operation in Austria although they are possibly used in
Rumania. [redacted] about 35 wells (most of them flowing) are producing
in the Matzen field, and about 50 in the Muelberg field. In the Matzen field the
drilling of a well to the two thousand meter production depth requires about 90
days or longer; completion time after drilling (if ideal conditions were to prevail
without the incessant and typical breakdowns and stoppages) averages about three
weeks per well. The Matzen field is possibly to be considered to consist of three

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fields, each comprised by a block due to step faulting. The Hohenruppendorf field is almost exhausted. In the Aderklaa field the producing formation is at about six thousand feet in depth, and a typical well produces from 25 to 35 tons of crude per day on eight mm choke. There is no crude produced south of the Danube River.

5.

Oilfield equipment shortages are typical in the Austrian Soviet Zone. The greatest shortages are in drill pipe and tool joints. The available equipment is usually of poor quality. Drill bits of very poor quality probably come from Hungary, pipe from Czechoslovakia. Old drill pipe of Rumanian origin is in use, and about 1,600 metric tons of casing of the same origin was brought into the Austrian Soviet Zone about three years ago. Drill pipe is subject to frequent breakage in the Austrian Soviet Zone operations. The casing quality is especially poor in the Matzen field. There is positively no oil country equipment of Western origin now entering the Austrian Soviet Zone. Rotary rigs are being manufactured at Trauzel in the Austrian Soviet Zone, and these are patterned after pre-war western models. No drilling chemicals (mud conditioners, formation softeners, etc) are available in the Soviet Zone.

6.

use of geophysical exploration techniques in the Austrian Soviet Zone. Seismic crews are operating in that area, using Czech equipment.

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7.

the total domestic consumption of petroleum products is about 300 thousand metric tons per year. In the Soviet Zone, the Soviet exploiters are short of cash to pay Austrian workers, and depend upon sales to Western areas for obtaining this money. The remaining crude oil and petroleum products all go elsewhere in the Soviet Bloc from the Austrian Soviet Zone. The Austrian Soviets sold about 11 thousand metric tons of petroleum stock during the past year. For Austrian domestic consumption the Soviets actually make available only the products of Diesel fuel and fuel oil types in ample quantity, and for these the prices are exorbitant.

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8. [redacted] in regard to oil and gas pipelines in the Austrian Soviet Zone [redacted]

No new pipelines have been constructed and none appear to be planned. [redacted]
[redacted] two old pipelines of minor consequence. One built years ago by [redacted]
[redacted] runs to the Czech frontier. It is not believed to be in use. [redacted]
[redacted] All crude is moved by rail. [redacted]

9.

[redacted] some natural gas may be now produced in areas south of the Danube.

10.

[redacted] petroleum refining facilities and operations in the Austrian Soviet Zone [redacted]

[redacted] all such facilities are old and dilapidated and have small total operable capacity, [redacted] the facilities are mostly for topping except for minor thermal cracking units, [redacted] no rehabilitation, modernization, or expansion has been planned. [redacted]

11.

[redacted] current Rumanian and Austrian Soviet Zone crude production is about equal and [redacted] Rumanian production is now about half of that four years ago.

[redacted] personnel [redacted] in the Soviet agencies which are now in control of the Austrian Soviet Zone petroleum industry [redacted]

[redacted] SMV's legal adviser. a lawyer named Uscezem [redacted]

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